

5-1 H 5-68

Oswald Buddy Denies Perjury In DA's Probe

Kerry Thornley, a Marine Corps buddy of Lee Harvey Oswald, today pleaded not guilty to a perjury charge filed by District Attorney Jim Garrison.

Garrison charged that Thornley lied in testimony Feb. 8 before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury in connection with the probe of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

In a separate action in the court of Criminal District Judge Frank J. Shea, William Gurvich was arraigned and pleaded not guilty to a theft charge involving Garrison's master file on the Kennedy case.

Gurvich had posted bond previously. He asked for, and got, 10 days in which to file pleadings.

Garrison charged Gurvich

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with theft of property valued at \$19, which later was identified as the Kennedy file. Gurvich was formerly Garrison's chief investigator.

THORNLEY was arraigned today before Criminal District Judge Oliver P. Schulingkamp and after entering his not guilty plea was released on bond of \$1,500.

A free-lance writer now living in Tampa, Fla., Thornley asked permission to leave the jurisdiction and go home. Assistant District Attorney James L. Alcock said he had no objection.

Thornley was accompanied by attorney Arnold Levine of Tampa. George Fust was retained as his local counsel. Fust asked for 30 days in which to file special pleadings. This was granted.

Thornley was charged Feb. 21 after Garrison accused him of lying when he testified he had not been with Oswald in New Orleans in September of 1963.

Oswald was named by the Warren Commission as the lone assassin of the President at Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.

IN THE TESTIMONY as released by the DA's office, Thornley denied meeting with Oswald. In reply to questions, he said he had been told by Barbara Reid, a French Quarter resident, that he had been seen with Oswald that September in the Bourbon House restaurant.

Thornley told the jury, the charge alleges, that he was sure he had not met with Oswald despite Miss Reid's statements. The charge says Thornley knew this testimony was "false and untrue."

Oswald and Thornley served in the Marine Corps together in the late 1950s.